



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 181**

February Session, 2012

Substitute House Bill No. 5259

*House of Representatives, March 29, 2012*

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. ROY of the 119th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT REQUIRING THE INSPECTION OF VESSELS AND VESSEL TRAILERS FOR AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 15-180 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2012*):

3 (a) No person shall transport a vessel, as defined in section 15-127,  
4 or any trailer used to transport such vessel, in the state without first  
5 inspecting such vessel for the presence of vegetation and aquatic  
6 invasive species, as determined by the commissioner, and properly  
7 removing and disposing of any such vegetation and aquatic invasive  
8 species that are visible and identifiable without optical magnification  
9 from such vessel or trailer.

10 (b) Any person who knowingly violates the provisions of this  
11 section shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars for each such  
12 violation.

13 Sec. 2. Subsection (g) of section 15-140e of the general statutes is  
14 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
15 *1, 2012*):

16 (g) Any course in safe boating operation approved by the  
17 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, as described  
18 in subsection (b) of this section, shall include instruction on the proper  
19 means of: (1) Inspecting a vessel and trailers used for transporting such  
20 vessels for the presence of vegetation and aquatic invasive species, as  
21 determined by the commissioner pursuant to subsection (a) of section  
22 15-180, as amended by this act; and (2) properly disposing of such  
23 vegetation and such aquatic invasive species.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

|           |                     |            |
|-----------|---------------------|------------|
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2012</i> | 15-180     |
| Sec. 2    | <i>July 1, 2012</i> | 15-140e(g) |

**ENV** Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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***OFA Fiscal Note******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill, which expands boater's responsibilities, does not result in a fiscal impact.

***The Out Years******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5259*****AN ACT REQUIRING THE INSPECTION OF VESSELS AND VESSEL TRAILERS FOR AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands a boater's responsibility for inspecting his or her boat and boat trailer before transporting them in Connecticut. Current law requires the boater to inspect for and properly remove and dispose of any vegetation. The bill requires a boater to inspect for vegetation and aquatic invasive species, as determined by the energy and environmental protection commissioner, and properly remove and dispose of what is visible and identifiable without optical magnification.

Under current law, a boater who does not properly inspect for and dispose of vegetation is subject to a fine of up to \$100 for each violation. Under the bill, the fine applies to someone who knowingly fails to properly inspect for and dispose of vegetation and aquatic invasive species.

The bill requires Department of Energy and Environmental Protection-approved safe boating courses to instruct boaters on how to properly inspect boats and trailers for aquatic invasive species and dispose of them. By law, the courses must already instruct boaters on how to properly inspect for and dispose of vegetation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/14/2012)